

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A self-aligning blade angle guide ~~of claim 1 wherein said clamp comprises~~ comprising:

(a) an axle having a first end and a second end;

(b) a clamp including, in combination, [[Two]] a pair of similar jaw members of predetermined shape arranged in opposition, (b) a shaft or lever of predetermined length, said shaft having a first end and a second end, [[(c) a]] means for attaching said first end of said [[shaft]] axle to at least one said jaw member, [[(d)] a base providing means for positioning and retaining said jaw members and the attached said first end of said shaft in combination, in a manor which provides for pivotal movement of at least one said jaw member towards and away from the opposite said jaw member, said base further providing an opening through which said shaft extends, having a hole through which said axle extends and releasably retaining said jaw members in combination with said first end of said axle, thereby forming a clamp-and-axle assembly, and [[e) a]] means for imparting reciprocal movement to said [[shaft]] axle, whereby said reciprocal movement of said shaft causes the attached said each jaw member is caused to pivot towards and away from the

opposite said jaw member, thereby enabling the clamp to securely grip[[,]]
and release a blade[[.]];

(c) a frame removably coupled to the clamp-and-axle assembly so as to enable
free rotational movement of the clamp-and-axle assembly through an angle of
at least 180 degrees with respect to said frame; and

(d) means for establishing and maintaining a predetermined sharpening angle,
whereby a weight of said self-aligning blade angle guide, combined with any
added pressure applied by the user, causes said clamp to rotate on its axis as
the self-aligning blade angle guide is placed in operational position on the
surface of a sharpening means, thereby aligning the edge of a blade secured in
said clamp with the surface of the sharpening means, said rotational capability
further enabling the user to sharpen both sides of a blade's edge with a single
blade clamping operation by manually rotating said clamp at least 180 degrees
between passes along the surface of the sharpening means.

4. (Currently amended) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, wherein [[the]]
said means for attaching said first end of said [[shaft]] axle to said jaw members
comprises:

(a) said [[shaft]] axle having a head of predetermined size and configuration at
[[its]] said first end of said axle[[.]]; and

(b) each said jaw member ~~further~~ having an inside surface and an outside
surface, and each said jaw member further having a similar recess formed in
its said inside surface, each said recess being configured to accept

approximately one half of said head of said [[shaft]] axle, whereby said jaw members may be arranged in opposition with said head of said [[shaft]] axle captured in said recesses, with said jaw members and said [[shaft]] axle being retained in combination by said base.

5. (Currently amended) [[The]] A self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim [[1]] 3, wherein said clamp further includes:

(a) [[A]] a plurality of matched pairs of ~~individual~~ jaw members, each matched pair of said jaw members being configured and adapted to securely grip a different style of blade[[,]]; and

(b) [[A]] means for releasably retaining ~~an individual~~ said matched pair of ~~individual~~ jaw members in said clamp, whereby the user may selectably interchange [[the]] said matched pairs of jaw members within said clamp, ~~for the purpose of sharpening~~ thereby enabling the user to sharpen blades of differing styles [[or]] and configurations.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim [[2]] 4, wherein [[the]] said means [[of]] for imparting reciprocal movement [[of]] to said [[shaft]] axle ~~thereby opening or closing the jaws~~ comprises:

(a) [[Said]] said [[shaft]] axle being threaded ~~and having a head at its first end;~~ and

(b) ~~Each jaw member having a recess formed into its inside surface, said recesses being configured to enable said jaw members to capture the head of~~

~~said shaft between them,~~ [(c) A] a tensioning nut having threads which are compatible with [[the]] said threads of ~~the shaft~~ said axle, said tensioning nut being engaged on said second end of said [[shaft]] axle, whereby tightening or loosening said tensioning nut moves said [[shaft]] axle reciprocally through said hole of said base, whereby ~~causing~~ said jaw members are caused to pivot towards or away from each other, thereby enabling said jaw members to grip and release a blade.

8. (Canceled)
9. (New) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, wherein the means for establishing and maintaining a predetermined sharpening angle comprises:
 - (a) a bracket fixedly attached to the underside of said frame; and
 - (b) a roller operatively retained by said bracket.
10. (New) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, wherein said frame is adapted to be held in one hand of the user.
11. (New) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, further comprising means for maintaining rotational clearance between said base and said frame.
12. (New) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, further comprising means for supporting the clamp-and-axle assembly when the clamp-and-axle assembly is inserted into said frame, and for stabilizing rotation of the clamp-and-axle assembly within said frame.
13. (New) The self-aligning blade angle guide of Claim 3, further comprising means for removably coupling the clamp-and-axle assembly to said frame while permitting the clamp-and-axle assembly to freely rotate in either direction within said frame.